



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,916	11/02/2001	Hiroyuki Ito	3019.002USU	7771

7590 08/11/2004
Paul D. Greeley, Esq.
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
10th Floor
One Landmark Square
Stamford, CT 06901-2682

EXAMINER

VIJAYAKUMAR, KALLAMBELLA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/003,916	Applicant(s) ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner Kallambella Vijayakumar	Art Unit 1751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Detailed Action

- Acknowledge the response and the arguments by the applicants filed 05/14/2004 in response to the office action mailed 02/12/2004.
 - Acknowledge the election of Claims 1-2 and canceling of claims 3-4 in response to the Election/Restriction requirement. Claims 1-2 are currently pending with the application.
-
- Applicant's arguments, filed 05/14/2004, with respect to claims 1-2 have been fully considered and are persuasive, and the 102(b) and 103(a) rejections in office action mailed 02/12/2004 have been withdrawn excepting for the 102(b) rejection over Ikoma et al (US Patent No. 5,700,596) for the following reasons:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

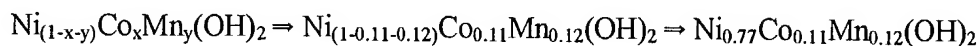
- Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ikoma et al (US Patent No. 5,700,596).

Ikoma et al teach the composition and making of *nickel hydroxides* with improved tap densities containing 1-7 wt% of **at least one of Cd, Ca, Zn, Mg, Fe, Co, and Mn** (Col-2, Line 67 to Col-3, Line 19) and forming the mixed/composite hydroxide of Ni by the co-precipitation of the constituent metals by the addition of sodium hydroxide to an aqueous solution of metal salts in a continuous process. The tap density of a typical example of the mixed hydroxide by Ikoma et al was *2.01 g/cc* and ranged between 1.1.8-2.3 g/cc for the working samples, wherein this would inherently meet the limitation of tap density of 1.5 g/cc in instant claim-1 and the limitations of instant claims 1-2 (Col-5, Lines: 1-10, Col-6, Lines 8-10, Table-1, Col-7, Lines: 66-67, Tables 2-3, Col-13, Table-10). Addition of 1-7 wt% of the component elements in the composition of the mixed hydroxides would translate to 0.02-0.11 Moles of Co and 0.02-0.12 Moles of Mn, when Co and Mn when are the preferred component elements from a small list containing only seven preferred metals would meet the limitation of composition and ranges in instant claim-2.

Applicants argue that that Ikoma et al do not disclose/provide any working examples consisting of Ni, Co and Mn per the limitations of the instant claims by the applicants, and this is not persuasive. A reference may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill the art, including non-preferred embodiments. *Merck & Co. v. Biocraft Laboratories*, 874 F.2d 804, 10 USPQ2d 1843 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 975 (1989). See also *Celeritas Technologies Ltd. v. Rockwell International Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1354, 1361, 47 USPQ2d 1516, 1522-23 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Ikoma et al teach the compositions of the ternary composite Ni-hydroxide, Co and Mn as the preferred elements for incorporation in the composite Ni-hydroxide, and their preparation by co-precipitation method per the limitation of instant claim-1 by the applicants, whose derived composition is shown below:

The composition of the composite Ni-Mn-Co-hydroxide consisting of base nickel-hydroxide [Ni (OH)₂, FW: 92.71=1 Mole], 7 wt% Co [6.49 gm, 0.11 Mole=x] and 7wt% Mn [6.49 gm, 0.12 mole=y] would be:



All the limitations of the instant claims are met.

The reference is anticipatory.

Conclusion


- The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ovshinsky et al (US patent 6,086,843) and Sato et al (US Patent 6,306,787 and WO 99/64355).
- **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action

is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kallambella Vijayakumar whose telephone number is 571-272-1324. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 07.00 - 16.30 hrs, Alt. Fri: 07.00-15.30 hrs.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kmv
August 06, 2004.


YOGENDRA N. GUPTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700